

Claims

We claim:

1. A device for facilitating the preparation of cytology slides, the device comprising

- a first cover having an inside surface;
- a second cover having an inside surface;
- an interposed spine, said first and second cover pivotably secured to the spine so as to be foldable into a book form capable of an open and closed position;
- an absorbent material mounted on the inside surface of the first cover;
- a filter, the filter overlays the absorbent material; and
- a cytology slide, wherein the cytology slide is removeably mounted to the inside surface of the second cover, the slide being positioned on the inside surface of the second cover to contact the filter when the book form is in the closed position.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the filter is polycarbonate.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the absorbent filter is a polyvinyl acetal foam.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the absorbent filter is 100% cotton fiber.

5. A device for facilitating the preparation of cytology slides, the device comprising:

a first cover having an inside surface;

a second cover having an inside surface, the second cover hingeably attached to the first cover so as to be foldable into a book form capable of an open and closed position;

an absorbent material mounted on the inside surface of the first cover;

a filter, the filter overlays the absorbent material; and

a cytology slide, wherein the cytology slide is removeably mounted to the inside surface of the second cover, the slide being positioned on the inside surface of the second cover to contact with the filter when the book form is in the closed position.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the hinge is a single, continuous piece.

7. The device of claim 5, wherein the hinge is a plurality of interconnected pieces.

8. A method of preparing cytology slides, the method comprising:

combining a cellular sample with a liquid-based medium to create a solution;

removing an aliquot from the solution;

providing a slide preparation device comprising a first cover having an inside surface, a second cover having an inside surface, said first and second cover pivotably secured to each other so as to be foldable into a book form, an absorbent material mounted to the inside surface of the first cover, a filter, the filter overlays the absorbent material and a slide attached to the inside surface of the second cover;

applying the aliquot to the filter;

closing the book form so that the filter containing the aliquot contacts the slide; and

applying a pressure to the first and second covers.

10. The method of claim <sup>8</sup>9, wherein the liquid-based medium is a Universal Collection Medium.

10-11. A device for facilitating the preparation of a plurality of cytology slides, the device comprising  
a cover having an inside surface;  
a base having an inside surface;

an interposed hinge, said cover and base pivotably secured to the hinge so as to be foldable into a book form capable of an open and closed position;

a plurality of absorbent material mounted on the inside surface of the cover;

a filter, the filter overlaying the absorbent material; and

a plurality of cytology slides, each cytology slide corresponding to one of the absorbent material mounted on the cover, wherein the cytology slides are mounted to the inside surface of the base, each slide being positioned on the inside surface of the base to contact the corresponding absorbent material and the filter when the book form is in the closed position.

11-12. The device of claim <sup>10</sup>~~11~~, wherein the slides are removeably mounted on the inside surface of the base.

12-13. The device of claim <sup>11</sup>~~12~~, wherein the slides are removeably mounted to a slide carrier, the slide carrier is removeably mounted to the inside surface of the base.

13-14. The device of claim <sup>11</sup>~~12~~, wherein the slides are removeably mounted to a slide carrier, the slide carrier is hingeably mounted to the inside surface of the base.

14 15. The device of claim 11, wherein the absorbent material is mounted to a strip, the strip is removeably mounted to the inside surface of the cover.

15 16. The device of claim 11, wherein the filter includes a plurality of individual filters, each filter corresponding to one of the absorbent materials.

16 17. The device of claim 11, wherein the cover is weighted to effectively transfer a sample applied to the absorbent material and filter to the slide when the book form is in the closed position.

17 18. A slide carrier suitable for use with the device of claim 11, said slide carrier including a plurality of slots for holding a plurality of cytology slides, wherein the slide carrier is removeably mounted to the base of the device.

18 19. A strip suitable for use with the device of claim 11, said strip holding the plurality of absorbent material, wherein the strip is removeably mounted to the cover of the device.

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